would be possible to judge the contribution of the South Commission towards achieving greater equity among world nations, only after the submission of the final report.

(b) India has programmes of bilateral co-operation with a large number of developing countries. In addition, India is playing an active role in all multilateral forums dealing with the subject of South-South co-operation. India took the initiative in covening the first Ministerial Meeting of the Global System of Trade Preference (GSTP) and actively participated in the negotiations leading to the Agreement on GSTP signed in Belgrade this year. We propose to contribute further to building on it and expanding its scope.

We propose to hold the meeting of the Governing Council of the NAM Centre on Science and Technology which is located in Delhi and is provisionally operational.

At India's initiative, the first meetng of an inter-governmental Consultative Conference of Experts on New and High Technologies was held in New Delhi in October 1988. We intend to take follow-up action on several cooperative programmes and activities indentified in the five themes considered in the Conference, i.e. informatics and telecommunications, micro-electronics and computer software, bio-technology, renewable sources of energy, and new materials technology.

The Government of India has contributed US $ 400,000 to the South Commission Dr. Man Mohan Singh, former Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission. is the Secretary-General of the South Commission. The Commission also has another Indian as a member.

Inland Transport Services from Calcutta to Allahabad

767. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bhagirathi-Ganga stretch from Calcutta to Allahabad has been declared as No. 1 National Waterways;

(b) whether it is a fact that the construction of Lock Gate at Farakka has already been completed to facilitate the inland water transport for Calcutta-Allahabad stretch;

(c) whether adequate funds have been released for starting the inland transport services; and

(d) if so, what are the reasons for delay in commissioning the service?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Central Inland Water Transport Corporation is already running regular river service between Haldia|Calcutta and Patna. The stretch between Patna and Allahabad is not now navigable round the year.

Non-Payment of Tribal Allowance to the Staff of Kendriya Vidyalaya, Nepanagar

768. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government in the recent past have ordered payment of tribal allowance to the Central Government employees serving in tribal areas;

(b) if so, hwat are the areas|reigons earmarked as tribal in MP;

(c) whether Nepanagar is situated in one such area; and

(d) if so, what are the reasons for non-payment of the allowance to the employees of Kendriya Vidyalaya, Nepanagar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SHAHI): (a) to (d) The orders as contained in Ministry of Finance O.M. No. 20022|3|87-E.II(B) dated 9.6.1987 have been extended to Kendriya